THE BEHAVIOUR OF SLEEVE CONNECTION WITH SPIRAL REINFORCEMENT AND ADDITIONAL LONGITUDINAL BAR UNDER DIRECT TENSILE LOAD

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Dedicated to my beloved husband, Mohd Saruni and my son, Darius Al Hatadi

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ABSTRACT

One of the important precast concepts is all the precast elements must be connected for the stability. Therefore, the connection systems of the precast concrete structure must be designed in such a way that its structural performance is equivalent to that of a monolithic concrete structure. In most cases, conventional bar lapping system shows detailing problems due to its long development length, particularly for large diameter steel bars to be embedded in precast concrete structures. As an alternative, splice sleeve connector can be utilized as connection system, splicing reinforcement bars extruded from structural element to ensure continuity among them. However, the existing splice sleeve connectors in the market are proprietary and patented by foreign companies resulting in the high cost of adoption, particularly in Malaysia Therefore, this research aims to remedy this by developing a new splice connector that is tailored to the needs of the Malaysian construction industry. This new splice connector utilizes a simple transverse reinforcement which consists of R6 spiral bar and welded with four additional longitudinal Y10 bars. This project report summarizes the experimental programmed and also the performance of the proposed splice connector under axial tension. The influence of several parameters of the proposed connector is identified. These parameters include the infill material, reinforcement bar embedment length, spiral diameter and configuration of the additional bar. The experiments examined the tensile strength as well as the failure mode of the connectors. The result shows that the proposed sleeve connector of 33 mm and 58 mm diameter, with at least 200 mm of embedment length could provide a satisfactory structural performance that can develop the fracture capacity of the reinforcement bar. Thus, show that the connector could achieved the required strength with less required embedment length as compared to the conventional lapping system.

ABSTRAK

Satu konsep pratuang yang penting adalah kesemua elemen pratuang harus bersambung untuk kestabilan. Maka, sistem penyambungan dalam struktur konkrit pratuang harus direkabentuk agar pencapaian strukturnya adalah bersamaan dengan struktur konkrit monolitik. Dalam kebanyakan kes, sistem tradisional tindihan tetulang memberikan masalah perincian tetulang kerana jarak besi tertanam yang panjang, dan kesukaran tetulang keluli berdiameter besar untuk dibenamkan dalam struktur konkrit pratuang. Sebagai alternatif, lengan penyambung boleh digunakan sebagai sistem penyambungan, dimana ia menyambungkan tetulang keluli yang terjulur dari elemen struktur dan menjamin kesinambungan diantara mereka. Namun, sambungan jenis ini adalah hak milik syarikat-syarikat luar negara, sekali gus mengakibatkan peningkatan kos pembinaan secara keseluruhan sekiranya sistem sambungan ini digunakan di Malaysia. Maka, kajian ini adalah bertujuan untuk menyelesaikan masalah ini melalui penghasilan suatu sambungan seumpama yang baru serta mampu memuaskan keperluan industri pembinaan di Malaysia. Sambungan baru ini menggunakan tetulang melintang ringkas yang terdiri daripada gegelung keluli R6 yang dikimpal bersama empat tetulang tambahan memanjang, Y10. Laporan projek ini merumuskan perjalanan ujikaji serta pencapaian sambungan baru tersebut di bawah beban tegangan pugak serta kesannya terhadap pengaruh beberapa parameter kajian seperti bahan pengisi, jarak tetulang keluli yang tertanam, diameter gegelung dan kedudukan tetulang tambahan. Kekuatan tegangan dan bentuk kegagalannya turut dikenalpasti. Hasil kajian menunjukkan sambungan yang menggunakan diameter gegelung 33 mm dan 58 mm dengan sekurang-kurangnya 200 mm panjang tetulang yang tertanam, memberikan pencapaian struktur yang memuaskan dimana ia menyebabkan kegagalan terikan pada tetulang keluli. Ini menunjukkan penyambung tersebut mampu mencapai kekuatan yang diperlukan pada jarak besi tertanam yang lebih pendek berbanding sistem pertindihan tradisional.

TABLE OF CONTENT

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF SYMBOLS

θ	-	Bond angle
U	-	Bond strength of concrete
f_n	-	Lateral confining pressure
f_c'	-	Concrete compressive strength
T_s	-	Tangential force in a small length Δl of the pipe
t	-	Tangential strain in the pipe
l	-	Small longitudinal length of the pipe
E	-	Modulus of elasticity of the pipe
d_i	-	Inside diameter of the pipe
f_{bu}	-	Bond stress
β	-	Coefficient dependent on the bar type
f_{cu}	-	Infill compressive strength
P	-	Failure load
φ_e	-	Nominal bar diameter
L_d	-	Embedment length

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 An overview on splice sleeve connector

The successful structural performance of precast concrete systems depends open the connection behaviour. Improper connections among structural members will lead to failure of structures. The configuration of the connection affects the constructability, stability, strength, flexibility and residual forces in the structure. A good connection system for precast concrete structures should not consume much space within the available dimensions of the structural elements to avoid congesting of reinforcement bars and to reduce complexity during fabrication. The method and erection process should also be simple to reduce the requirement of the manpower for the construction. Besides, the analysis and design method should be reliable and accurate for economical purpose.

Several splice methods have been invented to fulfill the requirement of lapped length for the continuity of reinforcement bars and one of those inventions is by the used of grouted splice sleeve connector. The sleeve is made either by available steel pipes or specially designed steel mould. The basic concept of this connection is two steel bars are inserted into the sleeve connector from both ends to meet at mid length of the sleeve. The purpose of the steel bars is to provide continuity for the tensile forces. Then, high strength grouts is poured into the sleeve as bonding material and simultaneously, perform as load transferring medium in the sleeve connector.

The splicing methods can be used as connection system in precast wall panels. The splice sleeve connectors are cast together with prefabricated wall panels. Then, the extruded vertical reinforcement bar from the upper wall panels will be properly inserted into the sleeve connector located at lower wall panels. By proper installation of the connection, the sleeves are able to develop the full strength of the bars and continuity of reinforcement between upper and lower precast wall panels (PCI Committee, n.d.).

1.2 Problem statement

In precast concrete structures, attention should be given to connections and joints. Joints can rightly be asserted as the weakest and the most critical points of a precast concrete structure especially in terms of bonding between the reinforcement and concrete (Korkmaz and Tankut, 2005). When a reinforced concrete structure is subjected to severe load, where the localized bond demand exceeds its capacity, localized damage and significant movement between reinforcing steel and the surrounding concrete will occur. Therefore, the connection systems of the precast concrete structure must be designed in such a way that its structural performance is equivalent to that of a conventionally designed, cast-in-place, monolithic concrete structure (ACI Committee 550, n.d.).

In normal practice of precast wall, continuity between upper precast walls and lower precast walls are carried out by lapping the reinforcement bars. However, this practice often caused congestion in the connection and may created honeycomb or voids in concrete if precaution is not taken during concreting. Therefore, the splice sleeves have been invented to eliminate these problems. However, such splice sleeve connectors usually require a special casting process due to the complexity of the sleeve designs. Furthermore, the splice sleeve connectors available in the market usually require a specially designed, high strength cementitous grout. Besides, this type of connectors could only be purchased from foreign companies and therefore, the overall cost of adopting splice sleeve connection system would probably outweigh the savings gained as mentioned above.

1.3 Objective of study

The specific objectives of this study are as follows:

i. To identify the performance of the sleeve connector with spiral reinforcement and additional longitudinal bar as an alternative method for traditional reinforcing bars lapping in connection for precast concrete wall panels.

ii. To investigate the failure modes of the sleeve connectors to understand the factors that govern their tensile capacity.

1.4 Scope of study

The scope of work will focus on studying the behaviour of sleeve connector with spiral reinforcement bar and additional bar for precast wall panel connections. To carry out the objectives, 30 specimens with various spiral diameters, length, and configurations were prepared and loaded under axial tension. Two bars of Y16 were aligned at the centre of the sleeve connector from an end, contacting to each other from the other end at the mid span of the sleeve connector. Their failure modes, as well as the failure mechanisms were investigated in order to understand the factors that govern their capacity.

1.5 Significant of study

The successful structural performance of precast concrete system depends open the connection behaviour. Improper connections among structural members will lead to failure of structures. In this study, laboratory testing will be conducted to assess the behaviour and performance of the sleeve connection with spiral reinforcement and additional longitudinal bar by studying the load-displacement relationships, stress-strain relationships and failure modes of the connections. The characteristic and behaviour of the proposed connections can be acquired so that they can be applied in Industrialized Building Systems (IBS) as an alternative for conventional cast in-situ reinforced concrete structures. The application of sleeve connectors in precast concrete structures can accelerate the speed of erection, significantly reduce the required reinforcement bar lap length, and guarantees higher quality assurance.

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